

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(WEST SUFFOLK).

REPORT

Of The

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1969.

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT.

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Thingoe, in the
County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st. December, 1969.

Thingoe House,
Northgate Street,
BURY ST. EDMUNDS,
Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the
Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1969.

There was a further increase in the Registrar General's estimate of the population. The birth rate declined to a figure equal to that for England and Wales, and the death rate declined for the third consecutive year to well below the national rate. There was a welcome reduction in the infant mortality rate, but this rate must be expected to vary widely from year to year because it is based upon a relatively small number of births. Seventy four cases of measles were notified but the general incidence of infectious diseases was low.

Further progress has been made with the provision of main sewerage, during the year schemes were completed serving four further villages.

Your officers continued their efforts to secure the repair and improvement of houses throughout the District, and in this connection it is hoped that the availability of more generous Improvement Grants will be of assistance.

My thanks are due to all the members of my staff and especially to Mr. F. Holmes, your Chief Public Health Inspector for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

Finally, I should like to record my appreciation of the encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,
P. COGGIN BROWN,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J.H. Warren - CHAIRMAN.

Councillor N.H.H. Nichols - VICE-CHAIRMAN.

COUNCILLORS.

E.W. Bird.	B.G. Lakelin.
The Most Hon. The Marchioness of Bristol.	T.T.F. May.
H.H. Cawston.	W.R. Mizen.
F.B. Clarke.	H.R. Smith.
R.F. Grimwood.	N.R. Whitwell.
The Rev. W.E. Harris.	L. Wright.

THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

This Officer holds in addition the following appointments:-

Assistant County Medical Officer	} West Suffolk County Council. Borough of Bury St. Edmunds.
School Medical Officer	
Medical Officer of Health	

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

F. HOLMES, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.
Hons. Dip. R.I.P.H. AND H.

This Officer is also appointed Inspector under the Petroleum and
Explosives Acts.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

S.T. AARON, M.A.P.H.I.,
Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.
Smoke Inspector's Certificate R.S.H.
Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works Certificate R.S.H.
Tropical Hygiene Certificate R.S.H.

C.P. RAMPLING, M.A.P.H.I.,
Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

CLERK/TYPIST.

MISS. J. HONEYWOOD.

RODENT OPERATORS.

C.H.W. HOLDEN.
H.V. MILLS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.....106,739 acres.

	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1968.</u>	<u>1967.</u>
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population.	22,460	21,870	21,530
Census 1961 (April)	20,070		
Rateable Value	£502,379	£464,494	£434,649

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed an increase of 590.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	182	160	342
Illegitimate	10	13	23
	<u>192</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>365</u>
	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1968.</u>	<u>1967.</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	16.3	17.3	17.1
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	16.3	17.3	17.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales.	16.3	16.9	17.2
Legitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births.	94.0	93.1	94.0
Comparability factor for births.	1.00	1.00	1.00

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1968.</u>	<u>1967.</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.	16.0	18.0	13.4
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales.	13.0	14.0	14.8

B I R T H S.

There was a decline in the birthrate but the adjusted figure was equal to that for England and Wales as a whole.

D E A T H S.

	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1968.</u>	<u>1967.</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population.	8.0	8.9	9.0
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population.	8.6	9.7	9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales.	11.9	11.0	11.2
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate.	0.72		
Comparability factor for deaths.	1.07	1.09	1.09

The death rate declined for the third consecutive year and the adjusted figure compared very favourably with that for England and Wales. Fewer deaths occurred from all forms of cancer and in particular deaths from cancer of the lung were reduced from 15 to 8. There was also a reduction in the number of deaths from respiratory diseases but there was a slight increase in deaths from heart disease. Seven deaths occurred from motor vehicle accidents and three of these involved persons under 25 years of age. Two deaths occurred from suicide.

INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1968.</u>	<u>1967.</u>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	11.0	21.0.	19.0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales.	18.0	18.0	18.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.	24.0	28.0	29.0

The actual number of deaths of infants under one year of age decreased from eight in the previous year to four in the year under review. Three of the deaths occurred in the first week of life. The causes of the infant deaths were as follows:

Enteritis.....1. Congenital anomalies.....1. Birth injuries etc...1.
Other causes of perinatal mortality...1.

The following table gives the causes and number of deaths which occurred during 1969.

	<u>Registrar General's Figures.</u>	
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal diseases	-	1
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects.	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, Etc.	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-
Hypertensive Disease	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	26	11
Other Forms of Heart Disease	7	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	14
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	5
Influenza	3	3
Pneumonia	10	13
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	3	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour Etc.	1	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1
Symptoms and Ill defined Conditions	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	1
All Other Accidents	2	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1
	<u>102</u>	<u>77</u>

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Birth Rate (Corrected)	16.3	17.3	17.1	20.1	18.3	20.7	18.8	18.6	17.0	17.6
Death Rate (Corrected)	8.6	9.7	9.8	11.0	8.9	9.8	10.9	8.8	8.9	9.6
Infant Mortality Rate	11.0	21.0	19.0	22.2	18.4	30.2	15.5	24.6	21.2	12.1
Number of Infant Deaths	4	8	7	9	7	12	6	9	7	4

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections made either by the notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Measles.....	32	42	74
Scarlet Fever.....	1	—	1
Food Poisoning.....	1	—	1
Infective Jaundice.....	—	1	1

M E A S L E S.

74 cases of measles were notified. Measles is usually a relatively mild disease but potentially serious complications are not uncommon and it is for this reason that the use of live measles vaccine is advocated.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

New Cases.

	<u>1969.</u>	<u>1968.</u>	<u>1967.</u>	<u>1966.</u>	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1960.</u>
Pulmonary	Nil.	Nil.	2	1	3	5	2	7	5	3
Non-Pulmonary	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1	1	Nil.	Nil.

One death occurred from Tuberculosis.

S T A F F.

There were no changes in the Department staff during the year and there has developed an excellent team spirit which has been of great importance. The co-operation between departments was again of the highest order and allowed for the full benefits of shared knowledge and experience to be passed on to the public.

F A C T O R I E S A C T, 1 9 6 1.

General.

The responsibilities of the Local Authority are limited in Factories, but it is useful to maintain contact with factory owners, managers and staff to ensure a full and ready liaison on the wider environmental issues. The opportunity to examine proposals for new factories enables advice to be given to architects and owners of possible contraventions in advance of construction and possible future problems can be anticipated and avoided. This is certainly the true function of the Public Health Department and a service to which the public is entitled.

Part I Of The Act.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	97	9	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	65	7	Nil
TOTAL	91	164	16	Nil

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			By H.M. Inspector (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	9	3	1	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	6	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	1	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	26	15	1	1	Nil

Part VIII Of The Act.

O U T W O R K
(Section 133 and 134).

Nature of Work (1)	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section (133(1)(c) (2)	Section 133.		Section 134.		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prosecutions. (7)
Wearing apparel making etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	22	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	22	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

ACT, 1963.

General.

The Act has provided no real problems during the year and Registration of all known premises has been completed. It is suspected that there are still a few employers of secretarial labour - some in private dwellings - who have not registered but it is not felt that there is any widespread evasion or that serious contraventions would be found. Of the 110 contraventions found during the year the majority were of a minor nature and no proceedings were instituted although warning was given to one employer and proceedings may be necessary in the future.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices.....	2	35	34
Retail Shops.....	1	28	29
Wholesale shops, warehouses.....	1	3	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.....	1	10	10
Fuel storage depots...	Nil	3	3
TOTAL	5	79	79

Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises98.

Class or Workplace.	Number of persons employed.
Offices.....	141
Retail shops.....	58
Wholesale departments, warehouses.....	95
Catering establishments open to the public..	23
Canteens.....	2
Fuel storage depots.....	4
TOTAL	323
TOTAL MALES	201
TOTAL FEMALES	122

Contraventions.

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	13	13	Sitting facilities	0
5	Overcrowding	0	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	0
6	Temperature	13	15	Eating facilities	0
7	Ventilation	5	16	Floors, passages and stairs	17
8	Lighting	1	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	6
9	Sanitary conveniences	7	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	0
10	Washing facilities	2	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	0
11	Supply of drinking water	0	23	Prohibition of heavy work	0
12	Clothing accommodation	5	24	First aid	21
	Other matters	20		TOTAL	110

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public Supplies.

The quality of mains water was maintained during the year although there was some concern over the quantity. The West Suffolk Water Board are now responsible for all mains supplies which serve 95% of the properties in the area and further details of the supply may be obtained from the Board's offices.

Number of samples taken...2. Number Satisfactory.....2.

Private Supplies.

Some 5% of properties are supplied from bores or wells within the District, the majority have piped supplies over sinks inside but some 25 dwellings still obtain supplies by bucket and windlass.

The laboratory in the office was widely used for monitoring private supplies using rapid microfilter techniques with Durham tube cultivation as a cross check. Advice has been given where problems have arisen but none have been so serious that effective answers have not been readily found. No chemical analysis or Nitrate estimate was carried out during the year.

C L E A N A I R A C T, 1 9 5 6.

Domestic and Industrial Smoke.

Once again the major source of air pollution was the domestic oil-fired boiler. This source of nuisance is going to become a major factor in future years unless further controls become available at installation stage. Bad flue design and lack of maintenance are the prime causes, coupled with unskilled installation. Checking of industrial installations was carried out at planning stage and the advice offered was used in each case, resulting in no recorded nuisance from any installation.

The burning of industrial rubbish caused some complaints, particularly from the burning of motor vehicle tyres. The black, offensive smoke resulting from this activity was reported from many miles away from the source on two occasions.

One serious nuisance was caused by a fire at a refuse tip, privately owned, containing numerous chemicals and a quantity of paint. The smoke pall was almost a mile wide and was seen for up to fourteen miles. No one knows what chemicals were released in the smoke but recent experience elsewhere revealed that smoke from a similar incident contained phosgene. Immediate action was taken to enforce the planning conditions, imposed on the user, which the Department had suggested and the standard of management has now improved. The possible dangers from this type of fire need further investigation at Government level and suitable codes of practice for industrial waste disposal are now urgently required.

Industrial Odours.

One complaint of industrial odour was investigated and found to be due to ammonia leakage. This was largely overcome but spasmodic leakages continue to be reported.

Agricultural Odours.

Two areas were badly affected by odours arising from the keeping of animals, one concerning poultry and the other from slurry produced at a piggery. In the latter case a village, together with a school suffered beyond any reasonable level and strong representations were made to the farmer concerned regarding the spraying of slurry on open land. This resulted in the practice being curtailed, although there is certain to be a recurrence as long as pigs are kept in this way and the waste disposed of on a limited acreage.

Following considerable negotiation the poultry were disposed of and this source of nuisance finally cleared.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

Traffic Noise.

The increasing use of minor roads by long distance commercial traffic has given rise to many moans from country dwellers. The twenty-four-hour movement of container vehicles to and from East Coast ports is increasing and giving cause for concern. This will no doubt continue until the proposed improvements to through roads are completed.

Industrial Noise.

The same factory which gave rise to complaints of odours also caused concern from noise. This proved to be a complicated problem being a cumulative noise at several levels of intensity and at differing wavelengths. The Company were most co-operative and spent a considerable amount of money reducing both noise and air pulsation to tolerable levels.

New factories coming to the area have been sited well away from areas where noise could cause concern and no complaints have been received about new factories.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Food Premises.

There has been little change in the standards of food premises and no new premises were opened. The gradual improvement of Licensed Premises has continued but with generally more attention paid to the sections in public view than those concerning public health. The increase in Licensed Premises turning to catering has been marked, but too often the cooking is done in the domestic kitchen which is not always adequately equipped or large enough for the purpose. Again domestic facilities are not only used for the washing of equipment - but often for the daily smalls too. Here lies danger with a Capital D. It is difficult to understand why the standards should vary so between the facilities on show and those unseen by the public.

PREMISES RECORDED BY TYPE OF BUSINESS WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

General Stores.....	59.
Confectionaries.....	8.
Guest Houses.....	1.
Licensed Premises.....	48.
Factory Canteens.....	4.
Fish Frying Shops.....	3.
Butcheries.....	8.
Bakeries.....	2.
Cafe's.....	3.
Licensed Clubs.....	17.
Day School Kitchens.....	7.
Boarding School Kitchens.....	3.
Wholesale Warehouses (Food).....	3.
Nursing Institutions.....	1.

Unsound Food.

Routine inspection of foodstuffs in shops and warehouses is carried out in an unobtrusive way as far as is possible. Complaints of unsound food were few but proceedings in the case of a bottle of school milk containing a slug resulted in a plea of guilty and fines and costs of £15.15.0. were imposed. Several dirty milk bottle complaints were referred to the areas in which the bottling took place and 160lbs. of assorted foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

M E A T I N S P E C T I O N .

Only one private slaughterhouse operates in the District killing for own use only. The number of animals killed were as follows:-

Cattle excluding cows.....103.

Pigs.....99.

Unfit meat and offals were surrendered for the following reasons:-

Cattle.

Livers (abscesses).....13.

Livers (distoma).....4.

Part Livers (distoma).....1.

Part Livers (abscesses).....3.

Lungs (pleurisy).....2.

Spleen (adhesions).....1.

Skirt (abscesses).....1.

Guts (necrosis).....1.

Pigs.

Lungs (pneumonia).....3.

Livers (ascaris).....3.

Livers (cirrhosis).....2.

Livers (necrosis).....1.

Head (T.B.).....2.

Pluck (pleurisy).....2.

Pluck (septic pericarditis).....1.

Kidneys (cystic).....1.

Spleen (necrosis).....1.

Poultry Dressing.

Only one poultry dresser operates in the area and all poultry is wet plucked and sold uneviscerated.

A considerable quantity of Christmas poultry is farm killed and plucked, particularly turkeys, but inspection of this trade is impossible.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed (All were inspected)	103	Nil	Nil	Nil	99
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases in which some organ or part was condemned.	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	20.0%	Nil	Nil	Nil	13.0%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0%
<u>Cysticercosis Only.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total weight of meat condemned.....3cwt. 13lbs.

No horses or animals other than those shown
above are slaughtered in the area.

RADIOACTIVITY.

Licences were again issued by the Home Office for the use of radioactive tracer elements in agricultural fertiliser in respect of Brooms Barn Experimental Station. No other premises were known to store or use radioactive materials or equipment.

PETROLEUM AND CELLULOSE STORAGE.

One hundred and forty seven licences were issued for the storage of petroleum and cellulose and forty tanks were tested on the ten-year rota. Two tanks failed the test and both were discontinued and rendered safe. In both cases new tanks were installed.

No serious contraventions were found but attention was drawn in several instances to lack of adequate or suitable fire extinguishers, faulty electrical wiring and lack of adequate warning notices.

INSECT INFESTATIONS.

The number of wasps' nests was very high this year and the Department destroyed sixty-eight nests. Bats were again a problem in some places and these were gassed.

Advice was sought on methods of dealing with many types of insects but infestations dealt with by the Department were as follows:-

Earwigs.....	1.
Bees.....	3.
Cockroaches.....	1.
Gooseberry Mites.....	2.
Mealworm Beetles.....	1.
Clothes Moth.....	1.
Wasps.....	68.
Cockchafer.....	1.
Flies.....	3.
Bats.....	4.

R A T S A N D M I C E D E S T R U C T I O N .

The service was seriously disrupted for a period of over three months due to prolonged illness of Mr. Holden, but urgent cases were dealt with usually within twenty-four hours of the complaint. No definite evidence of warfarin resistance was confirmed but suggestions of resistance were made by private users but this is still felt to be due to underbaiting or alternative food preference. Kills were maintained at a high level with frequent pick-ups after only 36-48 hours. The contract system for farmers, business and service installations continued with satisfactory results on all sides.

The following details are extracted for the Annual Return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

		<u>Type of Property.</u>	
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS.		Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.
1.	Number of properties in District.	6699	1142
2.	a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	367	6
	b. Number infested by:-		
	(i) Rats	355	6
	(ii) Mice	97	3
3.	a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	72	152
	b. Number infested by:-		
	(i) Rats	19	29
	(ii) Mice	2	11

SEWERS: Only one sewer was infested by rats during the year.

H O U S I N G.

Clearance and Improvement.

The housing survey, completed in March 1969, gave a clear picture of the progress made over the last ten years. The number of fully fit properties had almost doubled and together with those with only minor defects or lacking some amenities only, amounted to 82% of the total, (5,999 properties). Some 340 are in need of modernising quickly if they are to be saved but a large proportion are occupied by elderly owner/occupiers or retired employees who wish to stay in their homes to end their days. A further 459 are in a worse state and are to receive immediate consideration and 158 are fit only for demolition. Not all of these are occupied and the Council's determination to rehouse persons from unfit properties as a priority has given a welcome impetus to the clearance programme.

The current programme, due to end in 1972, involved the 617 properties last referred to of which 223 are empty or subject to Orders. This leaves 394 still occupied, still to be dealt with formally. It is hoped that the target will be reached without hardship or undue disturbance to anyone.

The amendments to the Improvement Grant schemes resulted in a larger number of enquiries, but still the accent is on owner/occupier interest.

Progress in all fields is summarised as follows:-

1969.

Houses Closed.....	15.
Houses Demolished.....	20.
Houses Reconstructed (with or without grant).....	12.
Families rehoused from unfit properties.....	16.
Properties repaired or rendered fit which would otherwise have been represented in the programme.....	21.

Improvement Grants.

	<u>Approved.</u>	<u>Completed.</u>
Discretionary.....	16	27
Standard.....	31	35

C A R A V A N S.

The number of caravans occupied in the area has remained virtually static during the year and no problem has arisen at all. The Council's site was used by travellers and construction workers with a fair turnover of occupiers. The private residential sites were well maintained with a few vacancies occurring.

The size of vans continues to grow and the popularity of twin vans linked to form a bungalow makes one wonder if this isn't an indication of future housing trends. The resulting dwelling is not cheap but is compact, comfortable, and can be sited where the owner can obtain a standing. With the modern mobile society comes the modern mobile home in the full sense. A far cry from the old fourteen feet caravan, considered in its day to be the ultimate in mobile homes but which from a public health point of view was in many ways a menace to physical and mental health for the young family.

Licensed Sites.

	<u>Sites.</u>	<u>Vans.</u>
Not more than 2 vans.....	33	37
3 or more vans (permanent residential).....	5	138
3 or more vans (agricultural)	1	12

Exempted Sites.

3 or more vans (Showmen's Guild).	1	6
	<u>40</u>	<u>193</u>

S W I M M I N G P O O L S A N D B A T H I N G P L A C E S.

School pools were again popular and a general brief was kept. No serious problems were encountered and the caretakers responsible took a keen interest in the pools, despite the long hours often involved. Maintenance of satisfactory pH levels seemed to cause difficulty and filter overloading gave rise to some problems.

The matter of a Municipal pool was again discussed by the various Councils with your Council pressing despite the financial problems. Of the need there is no doubt and the sooner the public have a worthwhile accessible pool the safer it will be and the temptation to swim in rivers and gravel pits reduced.

SANITARY SERVICES.

This information has been supplied by:-

S.M. CASSON, F.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.P.H.E .

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Sewerage.

Schemes mentioned in last year's Annual Report as being under way were all brought to a conclusion during the present year. Thus; during 1969, schemes for the following villages were completed:-

Hargrave - Chevington - Bradfield St. George - Rougham Green.

A tender was let for the village of Pakenham, where the treatment is to be effected in the Thedwastre Rural District Council's works at Thurston. The Contractor found himself working in extremely wet and difficult conditions in the village and the contract has not proceeded as satisfactorily as would have been desired. Completion had not been achieved by the end of the year, although it appeared at that time that the end was in sight.

Thedwastre Council's enlargement of the Thurston Sewage Works did however proceed, but was not far enough advanced at the end of the year for a connection to be made from Pakenham. It is anticipated that, in spite of difficulties, the village of Pakenham may be on the sewer towards the end of the summer of 1970.

The group scheme for Hawstead, Whepstead and Brockley was let to tender and Messrs. D.&.H. (Contractors), Cambridge were successful. A start was made towards the end of the year on this scheme and excellent progress can be reported as 1969 closed.

A tender was also let to Messrs. Havant Homes of Norwich for the construction of the Westley Sewerage Scheme and although the progress was somewhat slow, approximately half of the contract was completed by the end of 1969.

Staff changes during the year prevented progress on the Stanton, Ixworth and Bardwell scheme, although final approval was given by the Minister to proceed to tender. It is anticipated that this scheme may go to tender some time during the latter half of 1970. Also during the year, preliminary survey works were carried out in the villages of Lackford and Hengrave with a view to designing schemes for these villages, the discharges from which would be dealt with at the Council's Lark Valley sewage works at West Stow.

Preliminary investigations were also commenced for the village of Little Whelnetham, including the hamlet of Sicklesmere, and these schemes are likely to be proceeding to tender stage during 1970.

It will be seen that the Council has not stood still during 1969 in its desire to carry through its programme of improvement of sanitary services.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As reported in last year's Annual Report, the Council pursued during 1969 its intention to construct a Pulverising Plant for its refuse, and to use the railway cutting at Great Whelnetham for the disposal of processed materials. A contract was let to Messrs. Tollemache after Ministerial approval to tender had been received. The work of installation commenced towards the end of 1969 and it is expected that the plant will be in full use by June of 1970. Negotiations with neighbouring Authorities for the use of the plant succeeded in only one case, viz. the Rural District Council of Cosford. The Cosford R.D.C. has agreed to use the pulverising facilities available for all its refuse, and the Council has agreed a charge of 30 shillings per ton for receiving, treating and disposing of approximately 7 tons a day.

It is appropriate that in European Conservation Year the Council should have made this substantial ~~stride~~ towards limiting the despoilation of the countryside by installing controlled refuse treatment and disposal systems.

